FCD 862

CLASSIFICATION____SECRET,
SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT

COUNTRY_____East Germany

TOPIC_____Military Information from the Bittkau Training Area

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EVALUATION_____                    PLACE OBTAINED_____

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DATE OF CONTENT,

DATE OBTAINED_____DATE PREPARED_____24 July 1953

REFERENCES_____

PAGES____2____ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)_____

REMARKS_____

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1. Between 11 a.m. and noon on 16 June 1953, loud-speaker truck [ ] played Russian songs in front of the komendatura in Tangerhuette. The driver wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Between 17 and 23 June, there were no exercises at the Bittkau engineer training site and vicinity. [ ] sentries and patrols. There were no disturbances. Martial law lasted from 18 to 26 June. Motor vehicles [ ] were seen at patrol drives.

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2. A bridge construction was observed between Bertingen and Sandkrug on the Alte Elbe River. At 10:15 a.m. on 26 June, tank truck [ ] was seen en route from the engineer camp toward Bertingen; at 1:25 p.m., it was followed by 2 trucks, each occupied by 15 soldiers [ ] and, at 8:20 p.m., by truck. On 27 June, 7 trucks with pontoons and 1 truck with motorboat were seen en route in the same direction. Trucks [ ] were identified. They were followed by 5 trucks carrying pontoons [ ] 3 trucks carrying logs, about 5 meters long; and 1 jeep. On 28 June, a prime mover and trucks occupied by troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets, carrying logs, boats and beams, [ ] shuttled between the engineer camp and Bertingen. At 9:30 a.m., 5 trucks carrying pontoons went toward Bertingen. [ ] On 28 June, 1 officer, 1 NCO and 6 EM constructed a telephone line between Bertingen and the engineer camp. On 29 June, the construction of a bridge was started on either side of the river, with 2 trestles from each side. The middle section was uncompleted. A house tent and 10 small tents were on the edge of the woods. About 20 trucks were nearby. A medical tent, trucks and three T-34 tanks, [ ] were in the woods. Imprints of tank tracks led toward Angern. Two 160-mm mortars were emplaced there. [ ] the bridge had a load capacity of 20 tons. The bridge was completed on 1 July and was still in existence on 3 July. On 30 June, 14 trucks carrying pontoons [ ] were detrained at the Tangerhuette railroad station. A lieutenant colonel and a captain with motor transport insignia were seen with the trucks. The unit, with the newly arrived materiel, closed the gap between the two bridge sections. Personnel not engaged in the bridge construction left toward Camp Bittkau.

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3. On 1 July, materiel observed passing through Cobbel, coming from Tangerhuette and proceeding to Bittkau, included 1 jeep, 10 trucks, carrying pontoons [ ] 6 trucks carrying bedsteads and beams [ ] 1 truck carrying 2 water tanks; 1 truck carrying a large decimal

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balance: and trucks
On 2 July, heavy vehicular traffic toward
Bittkau and Tangerhuette. Vehicles observed included ambulance
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sedan 2 trucks with red signal flags, probably carrying ammunition,

bedsteads; and truck loaded with freshly cut fir-tree trunks. Ten 50X1-HUM
trucks, carrying pontoons 50X1-HUM
were seen en route from Tangerhuette to
Bittkau. On 3 July, 10 trucks loaded with beams and logs 50X1-HUM

and 7 trucks carrying pontoons

were seen en route toward Bittkau. They were followed by trucks
loaded with bedsteads and equipment; and 1
truck towing a field kitchen, which latter was later seen returning to Tanger-
huette. On 4 July, 17 trucks carrying logs and beams went toward Bittkau.
between 30 June and 4 July, only the one shipment on 30
June, which allegedly had come from the direction of Stendal, was unloaded 50X1-HUM
the Tangerhuette and Mahlwinkel railroad stations.[2]

1.    Comment. the motor vehicle observed in 50X1-HUM
conjunction with the known engineer exercises in the Bertingen area, which,
according to this report, began as early as late June, indicate that exclusively
engineer units of the Third Shock Army, probably from Camp Bittkau, were involved
in the exercises. The following units could fairly definitely be identified: the
unidentified Gds engineer battalion of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, the 338th Engr Bn
of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, the 107th Gds Engr Bn of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div,
the 348th Engr Bn of the 18th Mecz Div and, possibly, the 890th Indep Engr Bn of
the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and the unidentified engineer battalion of the IX Mtz
Rifle Corps, although the latter allegedly was employed in construction work in
Priemerwald near Guestrow since late April. The units entrained in Tangerhuette
on 30 June belonged to the 3d Engr Regt of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army which,
possibly in conjunction with the loadings in Templin in late June, transferred to
Tangerhuette to participate in the engineer exercises of the army and probably
were only requisitioned by the Third Shock for special work on the closing of
the middle section of the bridge near Bertingen. See Field Comment 2.
it is believed that these exercises ended on 9 and/or 10
July.
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2.    Comment. Beginning 1 July, engineer units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army were
observed at the Bittkau engineer training site. The shipments of these units from
Templin and Bernau to Tangerhuette and Mahlwinkel had been reported since 1 July.
. According to motor vehicle seen, units of the 122d
(?) Gds Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, the 194th Engr Bn of the 25th Tank Div
and the 131st Gds Engr Bn of the 10th Gds Tank Div, were involved. Information
from Bernau tended to indicate that units of the 22d Gds Engr Bn of the 6th Gds
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Mecz Div also participated in the exercises, which probably were not in
conjunction with the exercises in the Bertingen area and also involved units of
the 3d Engr Regt of the army. the engineer
units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div presumably were transferred from Fuerstenwalde to
Magdeburg on 2 July; and were retransferred on 4 July.
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